

The Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts
National Center for Contemporary Art
with the support of the Fund of the Supporting of Innovations and Youth
Initiatives in St. Petersburg

are pleased to announce the program of the 2nd Curatorial Forum

Dates: 19-22 November 2020

Saint Petersburg

<http://eng.curatorialforum.art/>

In 2020, the Forum turns to educational practices in museums and other cultural institutions, such as museum pedagogy and art mediation as well as general issues related to the production of knowledge in the sphere of modern culture. Visiting the exhibition is no longer limited to traditional tours and lectures, from passive "consumer" the viewer becomes a participant in cultural production. The program of the Forum consists of several projects divided for three different audiences: professional community, students of art schools and institutions and a broader urban audience . We welcome participants who are not immersed in the sphere of contemporary art.

Symposium* "Educational U-turn. Who else is producing knowledges in culture?" September - November 2020

Education has become not only a permanent subject of artistic expressions, but also a separate area of curatorial activity. The "educational turn" in curating criticized the commodification of education from the perspective of contemporary art. It challenged the place of educational practices in museums and other cultural institutions. The Symposium revisits the issues raised by the "educational turn" in order to respond to the today's challenges and address the relationship between educational and curatorial practices in their inseparable and often unequal relations. We ask about the purpose of education in museums, galleries, and other exhibition spaces today and what opportunities do we have for equitable and inclusive work in this field of knowledge production? Finally, who are "we" - curators, teachers, public?

Before the Coronavirus pandemic, the Symposium was originally planned as a physical event. In the conditions of closed borders and social distancing, Zoom became the main venue for such events, but the curators of the Symposium abandoned this obvious decision and completely revised the format of the Symposium. As a result, it was not the Symposium, but **Symposium*** – an online project in the form of a website, which represents a resource for sharing knowledge, a space for critical expression, and a meeting place that is impossible today.

Symposium* Program (main sections of the website):

- "Voice messages" (podcasts) from the Symposium* speakers, each of which can be commented on and discussed with the authors.
- Discussions in the format of correspondence, in which the participants are Russian and international researchers, curators, educators and artists. Participants will exchange letters on topics set by the Symposium* curators.
- Translations of texts by leading practitioners and researchers of educational processes in culture and art, including articles by Amanda Cachia, Janna Graham, Bernadette Lynch and others. The task of the publications is both to acquaint the Russian reader with texts previously not published in Russian and to form a theoretical context for the whole project. In addition, the curators will prepare a glossary of terms used in international educational discourse and offer their translation and interpretation;
- Workshops by Suzana Milevska, art historian, theoretician and curator (North Macedonia) and Dora Garcia, artist and professor at the National Academy of Arts in Oslo (Norway). Participants will be able to take part in workshops directly on the website of the symposium*.

The symposium* will feature:

- Pablo Helguera, artist and educator
- Nora Sternfeld, educator and curator, documenta professor at the School of Art and Design in Kassel;
- Lawrence Russell, director of ERG (École de recherche graphique - School of Graphic Research, Brussels);
- Sepake Angiama, artistic director of the Institute for International Visual Arts (Iniva), London;
- Felicity Allen, artist and curator;
- Bernadette Lynch, researcher and fellow at University College London (UCL);
- Françoise Vergès, independent researcher and activist;
- Carolina Rito, professor of creative practice research at the Center for Arts, Memory and Communities at the University of Coventry;

- Dmitry Vilensky, artist and educator, founding member of Chto Delat' (What is to be done?) art group.

Curators of the symposium*:

Yana Klichuk – head of the education and mediation program of Manifesta Biennale. Together with a team of local professionals she develops strategies of cooperation with the host cities' inhabitants .

Alina Belishkina – educator, curator, researcher. She was a curator of the public program of the Venice Biennale in 2017, 4th Moscow curatorial summer school of V-A-C foundation.

Joana Monbaron – coordinator of the education department of Manifesta Biennale 13 in Marseille. Monbaron developed the principles of education and interpretation for the first Riga Biennale of Contemporary Art.

Art Weekend in St. Petersburg 21-22 November 2020

If the epidemiological situation allows it, the Art Weekend will be held in November as an 'open day' for St. Petersburg galleries and art spaces. In 2019 Art Weekend united more than 25 various cultural institutions of St. Petersburg into several routes depicted on a special map. The participants of last year's Art Weekend included internationally acclaimed galleries such as the Anna Nova gallery and Marina Gisich gallery, as well as underground space FFTN and the self-organized space Rosa's House of Culture. Each site prepares special lectures, discussions, performances, exhibitions and excursions.

Art Weekend explores the current state of the local art scene, which is important for the professional art scene. The event attracted 7.5 thousand people in 2019.

Take-away exhibition "Zine as an exhibition: postcovid" Fall 2020

The epidemic forced cultural institutions and artists to rethink their practices. Exhibitions started being hosted in an online format. In just a few months thousands of viewing rooms appeared. The first special project of the 2nd Curatorial Forum "Zine as an exhibition:postcovid" is an attempt to find a way to interact with the viewer through a material object. This slower format serves as an alternative to endless switching between browser tabs.

Curators and artists will create three mobile exhibitions in the format of black and white printed zines. The exhibitions study the personal experience of artists with forced social deprivation. They rethink the phenomenon of the walk in the "post-covid era", as well as the result of a study of attitudes of St. Petersburg residents to green spaces.

One zine will be prepared by an inter-university group of students in collaboration with the project's curators.

Two-dimensional takeaway expositions will be available in public spaces of Saint Petersburg. Alternatively, the zines can be delivered at home between September and November this year.

More info: <http://curatorialforum.art/2020zinexhibitionpostcovid>

Studio Studies: video interview with Saint Petersburg artists in their workshops *Fall 2020*

In fall, the online platform of the Curatorial Forum will feature interviews with artists in their studios. The videos will feature well-known figures in the art scene, such as Leonid Tskhe, Asya Marakulina and Ilya Smirnov, an artist and a co-founder of Money Gallery, which recently moved from Moscow. The idea for the Studio Studies series came after last year's ArtWeekend where artists from St. Petersburg opened their workshops to a broader audience. Participants were able to see how these spaces are more diverse than commonly believed. In every research interview - the artists will guide the viewer through the workshops while discussing their life and work. The first 10 interviews will be released on September 15, the other ten in November.

Program for students of Saint Petersburg universities

In 2020, the NCCA in St. Petersburg concludes strategic agreements on long-term partnership with the leading universities of the city, which have opened chairs in art, art history, cultural studies, design and interdisciplinary practices such as Art&Science. These are The Saint Petersburg Stieglitz State Academy of Art and Design, ITMO University, Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University, HSE University and Saint Petersburg State University of Industrial Technologies and Design.

The main goal of the Curatorial Forum student program is to give future professionals an understanding of the current situation in the modern art world. This is done by explaining the ways in which institutions and independent agents interact in this field. More importantly, the program aims to help develop critical thinking skills that allow students to form their own opinions on artworks and art projects. Students will be invited to participate in exhibitions, online seminars, or even to undergo an internship or volunteer at the Curatorial Forum and Art Weekend.

The program of the forum was prepared in the midst of the COVID-19 epidemic, so the team developed options for its implementation in a covid and post-covid environment. If all social restrictions are removed, Art Weekend will be held in the

familiar format with applicable safety measures, and the Symposium* will be held in a hybrid online offline format.

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Social networks of the project:

<https://www.facebook.com/curatorialforum/>

<https://vk.com/curatorialforum>

<https://www.instagram.com/curatorialforum>

Reference:

Curatorial Forum is an annual international project, organized by the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts and the National Center for Contemporary Art in St. Petersburg. This event is held with the participation of leading institutional and independent curators, gallery owners, art managers, which helps to strengthen and develop cultural ties of Russian artists and specialists in culture with colleagues from other countries and regions, as well as promotion of interest among a wide audience in contemporary art in St. Petersburg. The project was initiated in 2019. The authors of the idea of Curatorial Forum are: Maria Katz (Kuzmina) and Natalia Khvoenkova.

<http://curatorialforum.art/icuratorialforum2019archive>

National Center for Contemporary Art (NCCA) – is a museum-exhibition and research organization, which aims at the development of contemporary Russian art and its integration into an international context. In 2020 the network of branches of the NCCA became a part of the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts.

NCCA in St. Petersburg was opened in 1995, and became the first out of eight regional branches. Working as a project organization - in

partnership and cooperation with local institutions, curators and artists, the branch contributes to the development of the local art scene, formation of transparent infrastructure in the field of modern art and the creation of diverse opportunities for inter-regional and international cooperation for cultural agents living and working in St. Petersburg.

The Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts is one of the largest museums of Western art in Russia. The collection includes about 700 thousand works of art of different time periods from Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greece to the beginning of the XXI century. In the Gallery of art of the countries of Europe and America of the XIX-XX centuries is represented by one of the world's most famous collections of impressionists and post-impressionists from the collections of Sergei Shchukin and Ivan Morozov. Since January 2020, at the initiative of the Ministry of Culture, NCCA with branches in Vladikavkaz, Yekaterinburg, Kaliningrad, Nizhny Novgorod, Samara, St. Petersburg and Tomsk have become a part of the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts.

<https://pushkinmuseum.art/>

Fund for Supporting of Innovations and Youth Initiatives in St. Petersburg is a non-profit organization that helps to implement pilot projects and initiatives aimed at city development. The search and cooperation with creative teams, assistance in the implementation of the proposed projects are the main tasks of the Fund. The Fund's large-scale program 'Projects Moving the City' includes is actualized under the patronage of Vladimir Nikolaevich Knyagin, Vice-president of St. Petersburg. This is an experimental initiative of the development of St. Petersburg in the field of education and the educational technologies market, science, avant-garde and contemporary culture, new economy, human capital development and human resources for the new economics, post-covid design.

<https://spb.energy>

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